



July 30, 2008

Gary. K. Van Meter
Deputy Director
Office of Regulatory Policy
Farm Credit Administration
1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, VA 22102-5090

Dear Mr. Van Meter:

As a Farm Credit Director for many years, I want to tell you about the urgent need to continue to support a safe, consistent source of capital for rural America. In southwest Georgia, and throughout the United States, rural communities benefit when there is an adequate and flexible flow of money. Since the Farm Credit Administration established the Pilot regulation allowing a regulatory framework for Farm Credit Systems to help bring capital resources to rural areas, we've witnessed how this program can help create jobs, protect much-needed and deserved health care services, and provide infrastructure the entire community relies upon for its success.

Southwest Georgia Farm Credit has been an active participant in the Pilot program for about three years. During this time, we have helped a Cairo, Georgia dentist finance his practice, and provided Social Enhancement funds to help him provide care to indigent patients. Consider this: though the poor in rural areas often have access to health care services through Medicare or Medicaid, dental care is an entirely different issue. There is a drastic shortage of dentists in rural areas. By some estimates, over 5.8 million rural residents had no dental provider in their zip code.

I also want to tell you about a small town in Georgia called Pine Mountain. The town relies on tourism to maintain its infrastructure. Bonds were issued to four Farm Credit Associations, including Southwest Georgia Farm Credit, for benefit of the Lodge and Spa and Calloway Gardens. For this small town of just over 1,000, the employment statistics tell a huge part of the story – 1,000 full-time jobs and 200 part-time jobs, with nearly 750,000 visitors to the community on an annual basis.

The bottom line is this. As a rural resident my entire life, I've witnessed the needs of these communities. The FCA has demonstrated through the Pilot program, a very positive step toward permitting the System to better serve rural America. I urge you to move this proposed rule through the regulatory development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Brooks".

Mr. Brooks
Chairman